

Filed for intro on 06/19/2002

SENATE RESOLUTION 220  
By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor the life and memory of Central Intelligence Agency Officer Johnny Michael Spann and to urge the United States Judicial System to bring swift justice to John Philip Walker Lindh.

WHEREAS, Central Intelligence Agency Officer Johnny Micheal (Mike) Spann, a paramilitary trooper within the CIA's Directorate of Operations, recently became the first United States casualty within the borders of Afghanistan since United States strikes on terrorist camps and forces began in retaliation to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Spann, who served his country as an artillery specialist in the Marine Corps before attaining the rank of Captain and joining the CIA in 1999, was in the process of interrogating Taliban and Al-Qaida prisoners, including the American expatriate John Philip Walker Lindh, inside a prison compound at Mazar-e-Sharif in northern Afghanistan, when hundreds of prisoners stormed an armory for weapons; and

SR0220

01580584

WHEREAS, in the violent melee that ensued, thousands of Northern Alliance fighters, aided by U.S. commandos and air strikes, stormed and recaptured the compound and recovered the body of their fallen comrade, Mike Spann; and

WHEREAS, the tragic loss of Mike Spann, at such a young age and with such a bright future, leaves an undeniable void in the CIA ranks and marks the 79th CIA officer or employee killed in the line of duty since the agency's creation; Mike Spann will be memorialized by the CIA with a gold star on the wall in the lobby of the CIA's main building; and

WHEREAS, Mike Spann chose to leave the safety and comfort of his home to defend the United States against Al-Qaida forces, believing in his heart that he and others could truly make a difference to America; conversely, John Philip Walker Lindh, formerly John Philip Walker, chose to join and actively train with the enemy forces under the adopted names of "Suleyman al-Faris" and "Abdul Hamid"; and

WHEREAS, while the decisions of John Walker Lindh are puzzling and tragic, he nonetheless voluntarily renounced the beliefs of his native United States and actively participated in war against this country and thus should be held legally accountable for his actions; and

WHEREAS, to excuse the actions of John Walker Lindh and others who would choose treason over duty and service to country would dishonor and invalidate the lives of true American heroes such as Mike Spann and others who have sacrificed life and limb for their country and our freedom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor the life and supreme sacrifice of a noble American hero, Johnny Micheal Spann, and extend to his family and friends our deepest sympathy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we urge the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia to bring swift justice to John Philip Walker Lindh in the criminal prosecution pending against Mr. Lindh.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.